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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania/USFR/ [redacted] Rumania

SUBJECT Unloadings and Loadings in the Port of Durres, April-May 52

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1. "During April and May 52 cadets of the Artillery and Marine Schools of Durres, and members of an antiaircraft unit and of a naval unit there were all mobilized to help the civilian workers of the port of Durres to unload ships. This was because, for any ship moored at Durres, Albania had to pay a tax of \$2.00 for every two minutes of unloading time /sic/.

2. "The following foreign vessels arrived at Durres during April and May 1952:

Nine Soviet merchant vessels

The Rumanian merchant vessel TRANSYLVANIA

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3. "From three of the nine Soviet vessels the military personnel from Durres unloaded in three nonstop eight-hour shifts the following supplies for the Albanian Armed Forces:

Rice

Corn /Wheat/

Maize

Sunflower seed oil - About 1000 metal barrels, each holding 200 liters

Oats

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Cement - Packed in paper sacks. One of the three ships was loaded half with corn, half with cement.
Dark grey cloth - To be made into uniforms and winter coats for officers of the Albanian Armed Forces.
Black ankle boots (blucher) - Made in Czechoslovakia
Leather for officers' boots (cizma)
Wooden boxes of Moscow-type biscuits
White flour - About 5000-7000 paper sacks, each sack weighing 60 kgs
Tinned ham
Very heavy wooden boxes, six by four by three meters, sealed and marked with an inscription in Russian. Contents unknown to unloaders. There were 10-15 boxes.

Durres port has only two large mechanical cranes [redacted] and can each handle a maximum of seven to eight tons. The heavy wooden boxes mentioned above were unloaded from the ship by crane directly onto 10-ton Skoda trucks for transport to Tirana on orders of the Ministeria Mbrojtjes Kombetare (Ministry of Defense). The entire Batalioni Automobilistik (Truck Battalion) of Tirana was mobilized for these particular military unloadings. The other supplies from the three Soviet ships were transferred to General Motors, Zis and Skoda trucks for transport to the Depo Gendrore Ushtrake (Central Military Army Depot) of Durres. This depot is located on RR Durres, near the Rreshbullit tunnel and the Gefe-Jetaj State Farm. The depot buildings are 15 barracks [redacted]

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4. "The Albanian civilian workers unloaded the other vessels listed above that arrived at Durres during April and May 50. [redacted] the cargoes from the other Soviet vessels included about 15 automobiles, 30 trucks, seven Soviet buses, tractors and various food commodities. The food was loaded on trucks for transport to Tirana. Soviet buses are used for civilian transport on the route Tirana - Vlone - Korce - Gjinokaster. [redacted]

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[redacted] From the TRANSYLVANIA they unloaded eight railway cars. Albanian students and military personnel who had been studying in the USSR and in other Satellite countries also disembarked from the TRANSYLVANIA.

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5. [redacted] The cargoes loaded by the [redacted] vessels included:

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Chrome - From the chrome mines of the Kolsh and Bulqizo, near Burrel.
Asphalt - From the mines of Telenice, Vlone region
Timber - From the forests in the Rukes and Fuke regions
Naphtha, benzene and other oils
Leather

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Albanian students and military personnel boarded the TRANSYLVANIA to travel to other Satellite countries and to the USSR to study."

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